



# Nom Wah Tea Parlor:

The Oldest Establishment on Chinatown's Iconic Doyers Street

Kate Ringo | May 5, 2022

## 1940 Tax Photo

“11-13 Doyers, typifies the utilitarian commercial style. The two-story golden brick store with flat lintels has been home to the Nom Wah Tea Parlor, the oldest operating tea parlor in Chinatown, since it was constructed around 1920.”

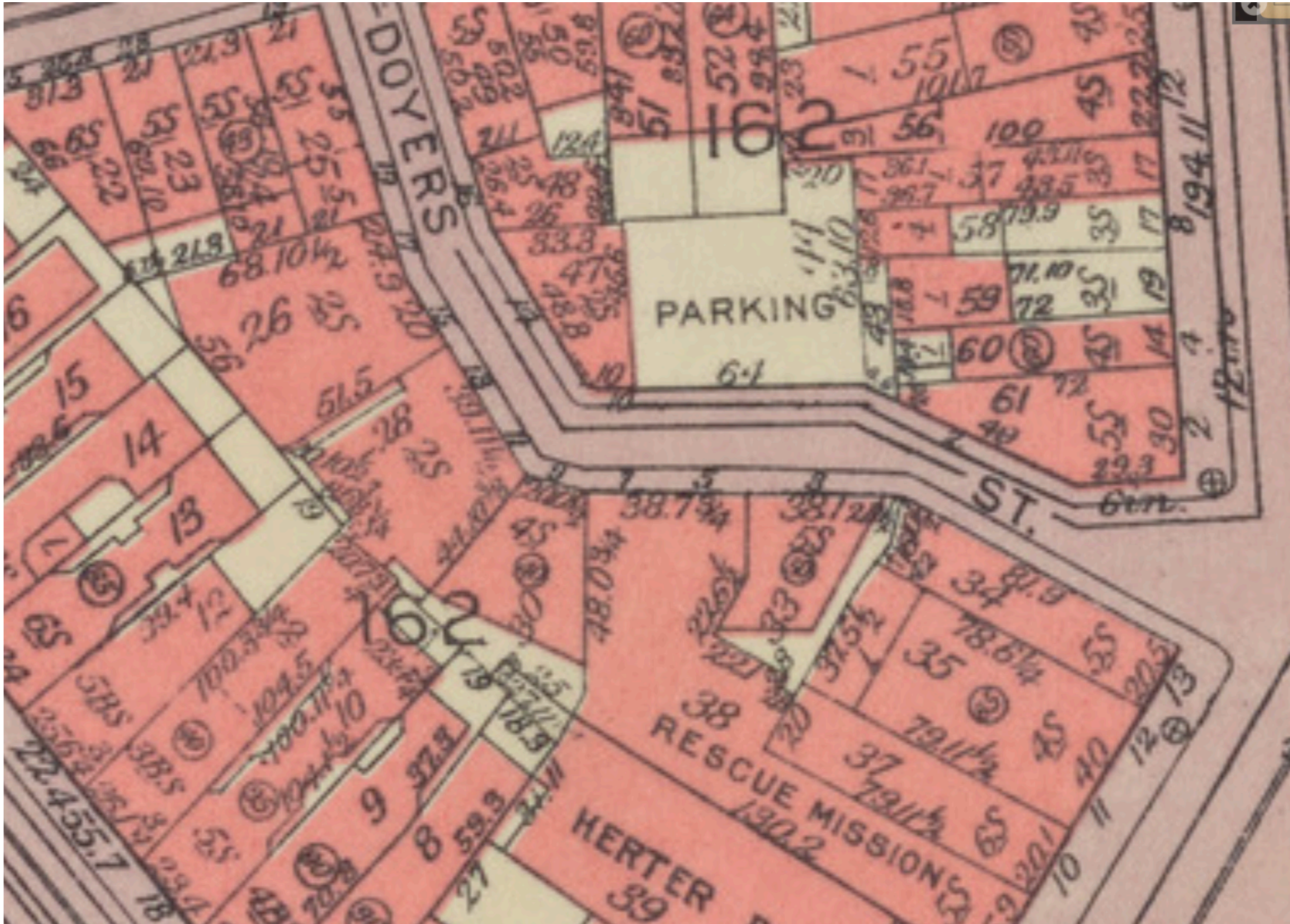
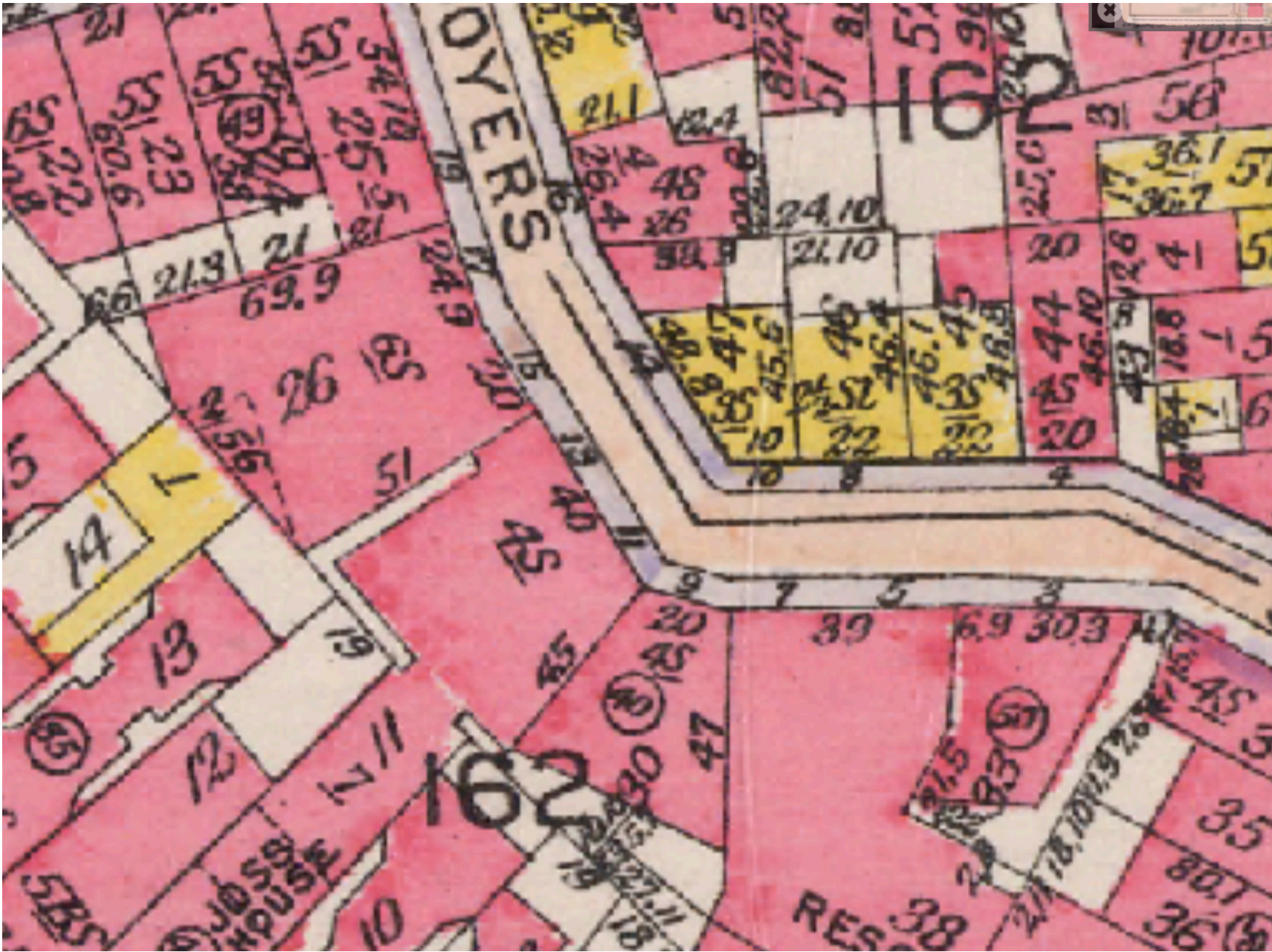
“Commercial or loft buildings of the late nineteenth century were not lacking in detail, though typically they were less extravagant than the tenements.”

- Application: Chinatown and Little Italy Historic District, designation National Register of Historic Places, 2010



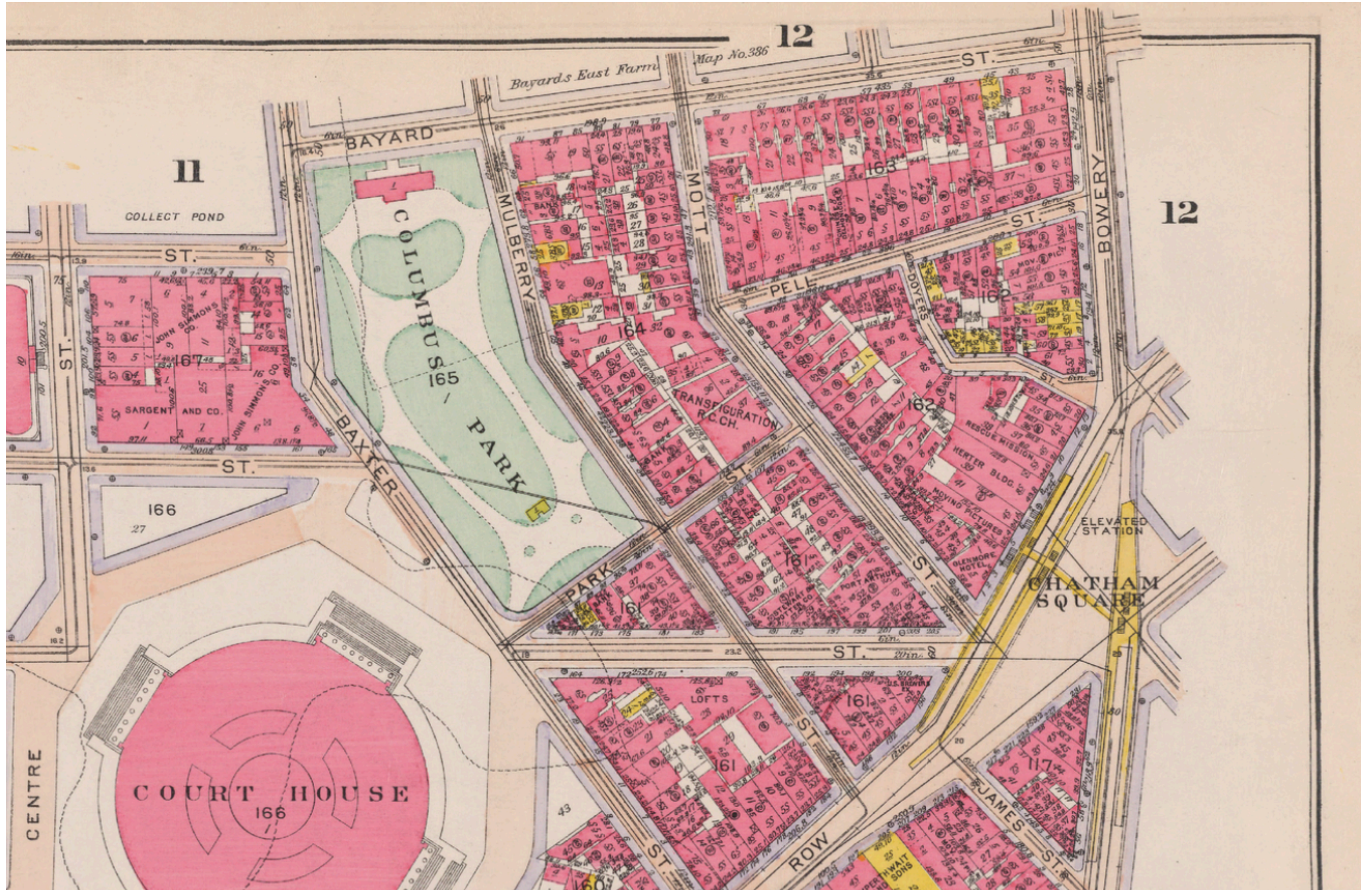
# Fire Insurance Maps

1857 | 1894  
1916 | 1956



# Fire Insurance Maps

Third Avenue "E1"  
1878 - 1955



## Third Avenue “EI”

“With the opening of the Third Avenue Elevated along the Bowery in 1878, the street was cast into permanent shadow, and pedestrians were showered with hot cinders from the steam trains running above... The elevated railway line, reconstructed in the middle of the Bowery in 1916 and finally demolished in 1955, helped to deter the redevelopment of this area for decades.”

- 2011 LPC designation report, Citizens' Savings Bank at 58 Bowery





**CAFE MANDARIN.**  
**Chinese Restaurant & Cafe Shanghai Gardens**  
 11--13 DOYERS STR. Chinatown, NEW YORK, City,  
 Chatham Square Station. Near to Chinese Theatre.



**The only Cafe in Chinatown.**  
 Oriental Kitchen. American Drinks. Music. — Reliable  
 Guides furnished to see the interesting sights of Chinatown.



## Press Coverage of “The Bloody Angle”

In another 1924 *New York Evening Post* article, a murder is described at 15-17 Doyers Street from which the “murderer vanished” using the architecture of the street as an aid:

“From 15-17 Doyers Street, there are many means of egress. One may slip through the house over roofs and scurry down into some convenient black hole and emerge many doors away. Or it is convenient to patter briskly through the big arcade that cuts the block there and come into the daylight in Mott Street - a point from which it is easy to reach both Tong headquarters.”





**The Rescue Society**

**5-7 Doyers  
Former Chinese Theater**



## New York Times - 1976 Article

“What do celebrities do on Saturday afternoons?”

“If you're bored with eggs and bloody marys, take yourself to a dumpling house in Chinatown... The Nom Wah Tea Parlor at 13 Doyers Street in the oldest (over 40 years) of the shops, has a bathroom-tile floor and no décor to speak of. The tables, crowded with family groups, make it look like a vast church supper. Waitresses go from table to table with enormous trays laden with small dishes—all you do is point.”



# Kimlau War Memorial

Designated June 2021

“While there are several New York City landmarks in Chinatown, this is the first that specifically recognizes Chinese American history and culture.”

- LPC press release

“‘We have been working very hard to ensure that we are telling the story of all New Yorkers and representing the city’s diversity,’ said Carroll, adding that her agency would continue ‘drilling down into history in ways that haven’t been done in the past.’”

- Landmarks Commissioner Sarah Carroll quoted in the *New York Times*



# DEFEND VILLAGE PRESERVATION

ALL CAMPAIGNS / UPZONING SOHO AND NOHO

## Campaign Update

Campaigns



Take Action

LPC Applications



Report a Violation

---

## Monitoring New Developments in SoHo/NoHo/Chinatown and Accuracy of Rezoning Predictions and Commitments

April 6, 2022





13 Doyers St. 2/FL  
莎莎 美容纖體中心  
抗衰除皺 永久脫毛 脫痣瘦身  
Cosmetics & Skin Care Beauty Inc.  
Tel: 212-608-0907 212-964-3510

司公 餅製華南 茶華南  
Nom Wah Tea Parlor

莎莎 美容纖體中心  
美白去斑 抗衰除皺 永久脫毛 脫痣瘦身  
Cosmetics & Skin Care Beauty Inc.  
13 Doyers St. 2FL Tel: 212-608-0907 212-964-3510

新中國髮型  
New China Beauty

VOM PROPERTY  
11-13 Doyers St.  
vondoyers@gmail.com

ATM

ATM

ATM